XXXIX. *An Account of a Book, entitled,* [Julij Vitalis Epitaphium; cum Notis Criticis Explicationeq; V. C. Hen. Dodwelli, et Commentario Guil. Muſgrave.] *Iſcæ Dunmoniorum.* Sumtibus Philippi Yeo. MDCCXI.

IT is ſaid of *Zeno*, that when He conſulted the Oracle, as to what courſe of Life He were beſt to purſue, He received for Anſwer, Εἰ συγχωπίζοιτο τοῖς νεκροῖς, *ſi ad mortuos ſe adplicaret*; it being from Them, their Writings and other Remains, that the greateſt part of Knowledge is derived to us; and what the Living furniſh us with, is chiefly taken from the Monuments of the Dead.

*Inſcriptions* are in this kind moſt valuable, as being for the generality *Originals of undoubted Veracity*; not ſubject to the Errors of Copying. The *Inſcription* here publiſh'd, is of the greater value, for that it is the only one, as yet diſcover'd, any way relating to the *Britiſh Belgæ*.

You have, *Tab.* VII. the *Inſcription*, with the Figure of the Stone, as it was dug up near *Bath*, 1708. and is now to be ſeen, ſet up in a Wall at the Eaſt end of the Church, in the Abby Green. *Tab.* VII.

I read it thus at length, according to our Modern way of writing Latin.

Julius Vitalis, *Fabricenſis Legionis Viceſimæ Valerianæ Victricis, Stipendiorum novem, Annorum viginti novem, Natione* Belga, *ex Collegio Fabricenſium elatus, hic ſitus eſt.*

The Learned Mr. *Dodwell*, after his *Critical Notes* on this Inſcription, divides his *Explication* of it into Ten Sections, which have the following Titles.

SECT. I. *Legionum ſingularum Fabricenſes* ſub *primis* duntaxat *Imperatoribus.*

II. *Alij* Fabricenſes *hi a* Fabricenſibus Notitiarum, *et* Codicis *utriuſq;*, *tam* Theodoſiani *quam* Juſtinianei.

III. Leges *de* Fabricenſibus *(etiam poſt* Conſtantinum M.) *non* ſoli Officiorum Magiſtro, *ſed* Comiti *etiam* Sacrarum Largitionum, *et* Præfecto Prætorij *inſcribi ſolitæ*, uſq; ad A. D. 474.

IV. *A Temporibus* Conſtantini, *et initio* Diocletiani, Britannia *ſub* Præfecto Gallicani Prætorij, *qui proinde* Fabricæ militaris Britannicæ *Poteſtatem habebat.*

V. Carauſius *et* Allectus *in* Britannia Auguſti Fabricæ Britannicæ *proſpiciebant per* ſuorum Prætoriorum Præfectos, *non* Gallicanum. *Inſcriptio hæc ſerior* Ptolemæo, *antiquior tamen* Dionis *Conſulatu*, A. D. 229.

VI. *In ipſa Urbe* Bathonienſi *erat* Fabricenſium Legionis XX^æ. Collegium.

VII. Legio II^a. Aug. *nondum in agro* Monumethenſi, A. D. 211. *cum excederet* Sept. Severus. *Eoq;* *proinde* anno antiquior *erat* hæc, *fortaſſis*, *Inſcriptio.*

VIII. *Fieri poteſt*, *ut* Fabricas duplices, *tam* Armorum *quam* Machinarum Bellicarum, *complexum fuerit* unicum *hujus Inſcriptionis* Fabricæ Collegium.

IX. Na-

IX. Nationis *nomine* Patria *deſignatur* Julij Vitalis, *quæ in* Belgarum *territorio fuerit, non* Gallicorum, *ſed* Britannicorum.

X. *Ad* honorem Julij Vitalis *faciunt, quæ de eo in hoc monumento dicuntur.*

To this *Explication* of *Julius Vitalis* his *Epitaph*, the ſame learned Gentleman adds two other *Inſcriptions*, one found not long ſince at *Pozzuoli*, the other at *Baiæ*, with *Explications* of them.

After a Letter of Compliment, to Dr. *Nicholes*, late Warden of *Wincheſter College*, the Editor produces his *Commentary* on *Julius Vitalis* his *Epitaph*. They are both divided into Sections, in the following Order.

Sect. I. IVLIVS. VITALIS.

Theſe Names are enquired into, and Inſtances given of many Perſons having this Sirname; and of thoſe ſome of Quality, now living in *Italy*.

Sect. II. FABRICIESIS.

It is here obſerved, that the *Romans*, for the ſake of eaſy Pronunciation, uſed ſometimes to interpoſe an I, and omit N. That they, being great Maſters of the Art Military, had *duum generum Officinas Armorum, quarum hæ Legionariæ, illæ Opidanæ erant.* The former came at laſt to be call'd *Fabricæ*, as appears from *Hyginus*, allowing, in every Camp for three Regions, room for a *Fabrica*. (Vide Antiq. Rom. a Cl. Grævio edit. Vol. X.) From *Fabrica* comes *Fabricenſes*, which is read in the *Theodoſian* Code, in a Law made *Leontio & Salluſtio Coſſ.* (A. D. 344.) And becauſe the Author has not met with this Word earlier than this Year, He does not place *J. Vitalis* much above this time.

Sect. III.

## Sect. III. LEG. XX.

The Author here delivers it as probable, That this was one of *Antonye*'s Legions, which amounted, without Interruption, to the Number XXV. inclusive. The *Insignia* for the first Cohort of this Legion, and two such as belong to the other Cohorts, are, from a Coyn of *Ursinus*, here represented in a Cut.

Under this head it is affirmed, That there were several *Vicesimæ Legiones*, but how many is uncertain. The several Names of this Legion, as they lye scatter'd up and down in Authors, are recited. A short History of it produc'd, particularly of its coming into *Britain* under *Plautius*, about the Year 43. That Invasion one of the most remarkable *Epochai*, that ever concerned this Island. *Græcina*, Wife to *Plautius*, probably the first *Christian* in *Britain*. This Legion was in the last Battel with, and overthrow of *Boadicia*: Was under the Command of *Roscius Cælius*, and after that of *Agricola*: Had its chief Station at *Deva* (*Chester*,) which had its Increase, if not its Rise, from this Legion, about the Year 80. Near the River *Deva*, He thinks the *Cangi* were seated; and proves, That they were overcome by *Agricola* in the first Year of *Domitian*'s Reign. This Legion in *Britain* in the Reign of *Adrian*. The *Vexillarii* of this Legion built part of that Wall, between *Dunbritton* and *Edenborough Friths*. *Ptolemy* and the *Itinerary* of *Antoninus* mention this Legion, as settled at *Deva*: (*Chester*.) It was there in the time of *Commodus*, and at *Crowdundale-waith*. It sided with *Carausius*, against *Maximinian* and *Diocletian*. The *Romans* did often place Coyns, under their Altars, and other Buildings. Of the XXth Legion, part had their Station at *Bath*; and was there about the middle of the 4th Century. This Legion continued in *Britain* about three hundred Years; consequently,

ſequently, muſt be of great uſe in communicating to the *Britains*, the many Arts and Sciences, they learnt of the *Romans*.

## Sect. IV. V. V.

Tho' Learned Men agree, That the latter V ſignifies *Victrix*, an Epithet common to this with ſeveral other Legions; there is among them much controverſy, what it meant by the former V. ſome reading it *Valens*, others *Valeria*, others *Valeriana*. The Author is of the latter Opinion, urging, That as the Legion, called by *Dio* Κλαυδιειοι, is by *Tacitus*, more than once, term'd *Claudiana Legio*; ſo this Legion, term'd by *Dio* Ουαλεριειοι, ought, in his Opinion, to be in *Latin* rendred *Legio Valeriana*: Eſpecially, if we conſider, That the word *Legio* affects to be joined with an Adjective ending in *ana*; of which He produces almoſt twenty Examples, and can produce many more: On the other hand, it does not appear to him, That *Legio* is in any good Author joyned with the word *Valeria*. He farther adds, That tho it be undoubtedly true, there was a Legion call'd *Valens Victrix*, (for this is evident from an Inſcription, reported by *Lipſius*, and others) yet there is no proof, That any Legion, having that Name, was ever in *Britain*. He enquires, how this Legion came to be call'd *Valeriana*, and how *Victrix*: And ſays, there is a longer Account of this Legion, than perhaps of any other, *viz.* up to 374 Years.

## Sect. V. STIPENDIORUM. IX.

The yearly *Stipends* are here placed to expreſs the Years of Service, and ſhew, That *J. V.* ſerved nine Years in the Army.

Sect. VI.

Sect. VI. ANNOR. XXXIX.

This double N is very remarkable; rarely, if at all, to be met with in any other *Inſcription*. The laſt Line, in the Ligature, is raiſed higher than ordinary, perhaps to include, for ſoftneſs of Pronounciation, an I; and then the Word is to be read *Anniorum*. There are many Inſtances of this kind to be met with, in ancient MSS and *Inſcriptions*. *Julius Vitalis* enter'd into the Service in the Twentieth Year of his Age; though the *Romans* generally liſted at Seventeen, and ſometimes earlier. Coyns are mentioned, as proving Cifres to be of uſe among the *Romans*.

Sect. VII. NATIONE.

The firſt Vowel here, without a Line tranſverſe, is according to Mr. *Cambden*'s Rule, a good Argument to prove, this *Inſcription* not to be more ancient than *Severus*'s Age: There being, as that Learned Antiquary affirms, no ſuch Form of this Letter, in this Iſland, before that time.

Sect. VIII. BELGA.

The *Belgæ* came out of *Germany*, and ſettled in *Gaul*; from whence a part of them invaded *Britain*, about the Time of *Diviaticus*. They landed in, or near the Bay of *Clauſentum* (*old South-hampton*) and poſſeſt the Sea-Coaſt of *Hampſhire*, as it is now call'd. Thence they march'd to *Venta* (*Wincheſter*) and gave it the Name of *Venta Belgarum*, and extended their Conqueſts farther, into the Countreys now known by the Names of *Wiltſhire* and *Somerſet*.

The

The *Cangi* could not inhabit any part of this *Belgium*, (as ſome learned Men have formerly affirmed, and others of late undertaken to prove;) for the Leaden Pigs, in number twenty, found ſome time ſince in *Cheſhire*, each having the following Inſcription,

IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GER. DE. CEANG.

That is,

*Imperator Domitianus Auguſtus Germanicus de Ceangis*, ſive Cangis,

Theſe *Laminæ Plumbeæ* do (I ſay) evidently prove the Victory of the *Cangi* to have been near the River *Deva*, where in all likelihood they were ſeated.

'Tis farther manifeſt from *Ptolemey*, they could not, at leaſt in his time, and according to his Geography, inhabit any part of *Belgium*, and this by an undeniable Argument. The Maritime *Belgians* near the *Iſle of Wight*, were overcome by *Veſpaſian*; whoſe Camp, now to be ſeen near *Chicheſter*, was capable of three Legions, that is, Thirty ſix thouſand Men.

*Vitalis* a Citizen of *Rome*, by virtue of *Caracalla*'s Conſtitution, if no other way. The *Britains* were ſometimes call'd *Romans*. *Veſpaſian* never overcame the *Dunmonij*.

Sect. VIIII. EX. COLECIO. FABRICE.

The ſingle **L** is according to the Cuſtom of the *Romans*, which held as long as their Language.

**C** for **G** was alſo uſual with Them.

The *Fabrica Sacra*, or Office for making Arms of the greater ſort, for the Souldiery, is mention'd by *Paternus*; who lived under the *Antonines*. *Trajan* ſeems, firſt, to have built this ſort of Office; whoſe Oeconomy is here ſet forth; but, in *Britain*, *Adrian*, A. D. CXXI. Why we ought to read *Fabricenſium*. The *Bath-Fabric* had Ore and Fuel from the *Silures*, (*Gloceſterſhire* and *Monmouthſhire*) where *Adrian* ſunk an Iron-work. Of the Officer in the Army called *Armorum Cuſtos*. The *Armamentarium* at the Mouth of the old *Rhine*, very ancient: Its Communication, in latter Times, with our *Fabrica*. Not unlikely, but that the Legionary *Fabricenſes* were incorporated into the *Bath-College*. *Julius Vitalis* recommended Himſelf to the College, perhaps by his Humanity, Probity, and Urbanity. The Luxury of this XXth Legion, and of the *Fabricenſes* near *Bath*, manifeſt from their many Moſaic Pavements: Of which one is here deſcribed. *Vitalis* ſeems to have been *Præfectus Fabricenſium*, from the Honour done Him, by the whole College, in his Funeral and Monument.

## Sect. X. ELATUS.

The true Signification of this Word, in oppoſition to *Sipontinus*. *Collegium*, in the pureſt *Latin* Authors, never ſignifies *a Place*.

## Sect. XI. H S E.

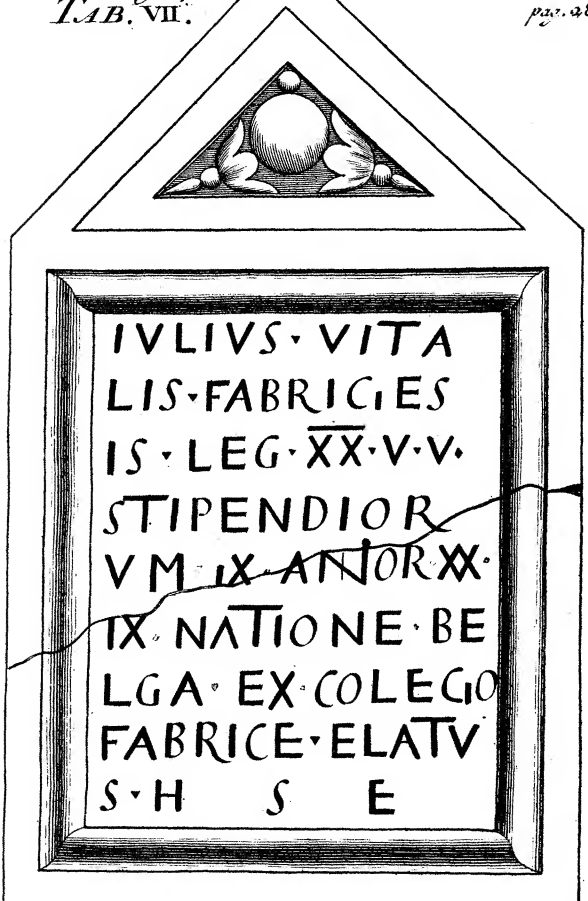
The Riſe of *Notes*, *Singulæ*, or *Siglæ*. No Points in this Note, being of itſelf eaſily underſtood. The common way of Deciphering not difficult; and may be perform'd by one, who underſtands not the Language of the Writing. A way of writing propoſed, ſo occult, as not to be diſcovered. No *Digamma Æolicum* in any of the *Britiſh Inſcriptions*. Phraſes, as well as Words, have

have their Riſe and Fall. This of [*Hic ſitus eſt*] one of the moſt ancient.

The *Military Ways*, as now ſeen, are ſome of the moſt Magnificent Remains of the *Roman* Greatneſs; begun near *Bath*, under *Claudius*. The *Roman* Army in *Britain* under *Nero* 70000: which, after the Defeat of *Boadicia*, was in all likelihood employ'd in public Works, as Ways, *&c.* At *Bath* four Military Ways meet; in this *Quadrivium*, about a Mile out of the Town, near the *London-Road*, was a famous Burying-Place; in which *Julius Vitalis*, and ſeveral others, were buryed. Burying-Places moſt proper remote from Cities, and therefore recommended to more frequent uſe, after the Example of moſt wiſe Nations.

In the laſt Chapter the Author treats of the Orthography, Ornaments, and other Accidents of this *Inſcription*, ſetting forth, in particular, That as *Inſcriptions* beſt of all teach Orthography, ſo they are often moſt faulty in this reſpect. Points at firſt were uſed to diſtinguiſh Words. In this *Inſcription*, they are, where moſt perfect, Triangular, and placed near the middle of the preceding Letter. The *Roman* V was pronounc'd like our W; conſequently *Julius Witalis*. This Vowel was ſometimes pointed beneath, ſometimes Arch'd, as appears from MSS of a thouſand Years age, now to be ſeen in the *Bodleian Library*: contrary to the Opinion of *Cellarius*; who affirms, That the round bottom'd U, U, is not above a hundred Years ſtanding. This laſt Figure of this Letter taken from the *Runer*, as the other, V, was from the Greek ϒ. Of the mixing ſmall with great Letters; and mixing, in the ſame Writing, Letters of divers Alphabets. Lithotomiſts careleſs in dividing Syllables. Knowledge of the Antients beſt preſerved by *Inſcriptions*; which yet labour under great defects. The Uſe of this *Inſcription*.

The A. of this *Commentary* can't but take Notice, That it is not repreſented aright by the Editor of the *Bibliotheque choiſie, Tom.* XXV. *primiere partie.* For pagg. 225 and 6, He ſays, [*Belges, qui des Provinces ſeptentrionales du Continent des Gaules s'étoient tranſportez en Angleterre, autour de Bath & Wells*] Whereas the *Commentary* affirms no ſuch thing, and in all likelihood *Wells*, and perhaps *Bath* too, is much later than the ſettling of the *Belgæ* in *Britain.* In the 2d place, He obſerves, That whereas the *Bibliotheque* affirms of the *Bath* Fabric [*ce que l'on avoit ignoré juſqu' à preſent*] the *Commentary* quite otherwiſe ſays, [*Fabricam* Aquis, *quod orbi literato jam diu latuit, fuiſſe* Calidis.] pag. 189. Laſtly, ſpeaking of the round bottom'd U, invented (as *Cellarius* affirms) about a hundred Years ago, This, ſays the *Bibliotheque*, is true, as to *Inſcriptions* [*Celà eſt vrai à l'egard des Inſcriptions*] On the other hand, I take leave to affirm, *quod hujus contrarium eſt veriſſimum:* There being now to be ſeen in *Cornwall* an old Inſcription with a round U.




*Tabulam hanc, quæ repræſentat* Julij Vitalis *Epitaphium, ad* Bathoniam, A. D. MDCCIIX *effoſsum, Antiquitatis ſtudio flagrantibus D. D. Q.*

Richardus Muſgrave,
Haſilburienſis.